NEWS RELEASE
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Utah Business and Economic Development Division Names New Centers of Excellence Recipients

The Board of Utah Business and Economic Development has approved $2 million for funding 15 centers and 2 planning grants as this year's Centers of Excellence Program (COEP) recipients. One such center has developed non-invasive optical technologies for medical diagnostic and therapeutic uses, while another has developed a process that allows welding of materials that could not previously be joined.

The Centers of Excellence Program helps with the commercialization of late-stage developmental technologies that have potential for economic development within the State of Utah. The COEP has an impressive list of graduates, including Sarcos, the Salt Lake company who designed the *Jurassic Park* movie dinosaurs and their movement, and Myriad Genetics.

"This is very exciting, to see that each one of these centers has the potential of starting a new company and having an impressive economic impact," says Michael A. Keene, Ph.D., director of the Centers of Excellence Program. "Since its inception, nearly 150 companies have been created and thousands of high-paying jobs have been established in Utah with help from the COEP."

The following Centers have been funded:

Advanced Joining of Materials (BYU) – Has developed new friction stir welding tools and materials, appropriate control systems and multi-axial capability for all levels of manufacturing. $130,000.

Advanced Structural Composites (BYU) - Develops commercial products for the integration of damping materials with composites, and the creation of lightweight composite materials. Two new companies have been formed. $120,000.

Biomedical Optics (U/U) – Has developed optical technologies for medical diagnostic and therapeutic (surgical) treatments, e.g. non-invasive assessment and therapeutic treatments of mucosal tissues. $150,000.

Bioremediation (WSU) – Has a patented technology for the removal of selenium metal; additional multiple metal removal technologies are poised in the commercialization pipeline. One new company has been formed. $70,000.

Compliant Mechanisms (BYU) – Accelerates and streamlines commercial applications of devices that obtain their motion from the deflection of flexible parts rather than from pin joints. $130,000.

Computational Testing & Design (U/U) - Developing powerful computational packages capable of designing and predicting the electrical, mechanical and structural

characteristics of novel materials, especially nanostructured materials and components such as carbon nanotube-based electromechanical devices. $115,000.

Direct Machining And Control (BYU) - Developing a method that allows a manufacturing machine controller to directly interpret CAD/CAM models, resulting in superior resolution for complex shapes. An open architecture, software based controller has been designed and implemented. One new company has been formed. $120,000.

Electronic Medical Education (U/U) - Authoring and packaging tools that will be used to create medical education products, and sell them as a component based medical information management and processing system. One new company has been formed. $125,000.

High-Speed Information Processing (USU) - Designs, prototypes and commercializes fast algorithms for families of IC chips known as Application Specific Integrated Circuits, or ASIC, which have value in most military and compact consumer electronic devices. $115,000.

Nuclear, Medical and Environmental Technologies (U/U) – Develops high specific activity, short-lived radioisotopes; production of irradiated seeds for use in treatment of selected cancers; and evaluation of performance of electronic components and integrated systems upon exposure to neutrons. $100,000.

Profitable Uses of Agricultural Byproducts (USU) - Develops cost-effective technologies to treat and dispose of animal waste generated in agriculture. The conversion of the waste products by anaerobic systems results in "biogas" that can be used to produce energy, and nutrients to be used in soil amendments. $105,000.

Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing (U/U) – Has developed the capability of building very large prototypes and techniques for a large number of molded parts from CAD design in a short period of time. $130,000.

Representation of Multi-Dimensional Information (CROMDI) (U/U) – Has developed a new visualization technology that facilitates the rapid and accurate analysis of large quantities of complex and continuously changing data, with applications in medicine, finance etc. $140,000.

Smart Sensors (USU) – Engaged in the development and commercialization of sensor-based products. Product applications span a wide array of sensing and communication needs. An application close to market is the detection of faults in aircraft wiring. $120,000.

Vascular Biotherapeutics (U/U) – Focused on commercializing medical strategies and devices that target blood vessel formation for the treatment of cancer and obstructive vascular diseases such as atherosclerosis. $140,000.

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